

## REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 10-23 may be allowable if amended to overcome the §112, second paragraph rejections.

Claims 1-23 remain pending in the instant application. All claims presently stand rejected. Claims 1-3, 8-15, 18, and 21-23 are amended herein. Entry of this amendment and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

### *Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112*

Claims 1-23 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Regarding claims 1, 8, and 18, the Examiner stated the phrase “object data” is not clear. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 8, and 18, along with their respective dependent claims, have been amended to address the Examiner’s concerns.

Regarding claim 10, the Examiner stated the phrase “modifying an object ... reclaim process” in the preamble and the phrase “reading an object ...” in the body of the claim are unclear. Accordingly, claim 10 has been amended to address the Examiner’s concern. The “object” in the body of the claim now derives its antecedent basis from the “object” introduced in the preamble of the claim.

Regarding claim 22, the Examiner stated that the phrase “valid data” is unclear and lacks proper antecedent basis. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claim 22 to define “the valid data” as data not scheduled to be erased. Furthermore, Applicants have addressed the antecedent basis issue.

## CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants believe the applicable rejections have been overcome and all claims remaining in the application are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned representative at (206) 292-8600 if the Examiner believes that an interview might be useful for any reason.


### CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

It is not believed that extensions of time are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a). Any fees required therefore are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-2666. Please credit any overpayment to the same deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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